

## RAILROADS RENEW CONTEST AGAINST RATE LEGISLATION

Lengthy Petitions Sent  
Out From Chicago  
Show Corporations'  
Attitude.

Interstate Commerce  
Law Convention Called  
to Offset Such  
Action.

Many Communications  
Addressed to Presi-  
dent Upon the  
Subject.

President Roosevelt has lately been receiving a great number of communications from railroad and other interests on the transportation question, which leave no doubt that another movement against further legislation is being organized. To meet it, the Interstate Commerce Law convention is to be called for another session in Chicago, probably about the middle of September, when the matter will be voiced and the effort will be made to commit the commercial bodies of the country in favor of extending the rate-controlling powers of the commission and adding some new legislation giving Federal control over issues of capitalization.

Since the recent visit of Governor Larrabee, of Iowa, in Washington, it has developed that members of the executive committee of the Interstate Commerce Law convention are planning another meeting of their organization. Conferences have been held among some members of the executive committee, and the determination has been practically reached to have another convention. E. P. Bacon, of Milwaukee, founder and chairman of the organization, is to spend the summer in Europe, but his absence will not interfere with the arrangement of a convention, in charge of other members of the executive committee.

**Petition From Chicago.**

Advocates of further legislation on these subjects have recently been concerned by the circulation of a great petition sent out from Chicago, and bearing the signatures of a great number of business houses which are stated to be furnishing railroad supplies. This petition sets forth that business is now good, but that the Federal and State governments have been agitating legislation on railroad subjects; that the railroads are stopping improvements and expenditures, and are making no new contracts in this direction. And, therefore, it is declared that the signers believe that the railroads ought not to be embarrassed by further legislation or agitation; that railroading is, next to agriculture, the greatest industry of the country; that whatever strikes at it strikes at the whole business fabric; that hard times are threatened unless agitation ceases. Therefore, people are asked to write their Senators and Congressmen demanding a cessation of agitation along these lines.

**Oppose Rate Increase.**

At the same time that this circular came to town, President Roosevelt received from the Receivers and Shippers' Association, of Dayton, Ohio, a printed petition demanding in behalf of business interests that the authorities in charge of enforcement of the interstate commerce law permit no increase of rates or raising of classifications or minimum carload weights, at this time. It was set forth that such increases are threatened by the railroads; that they would greatly injure business; that the railroads are enjoying greater earnings than ever before, and that the business is already so great that they cannot give even fair service; therefore, they have no excuse for an increase of rates. The President forwarded this to the Interstate Commission for consideration.

It can be said that any effort at a general increase of rates will receive small consideration at the hands of the commission. Recently the Illinois and Indiana roads tried to add 10 per cent to coal rates, and the commission started proceedings to nullify it so promptly that the new tariffs were at once withdrawn.

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## Commerce Chamber Ready for Business

Business Men's Association  
Adopts Resolution  
to That End.

Jobbers and Shippers  
Meet Tonight to Take  
Similar Action.

By reason of the action taken at the special meeting of the Business Men's Association last night, the new Washington Chamber of Commerce is now practically an accomplished fact. With but one dissenting vote, the resolution providing for a permanent organization of the Washington Chamber of Commerce was adopted.

It now remains for the Jobbers and Shippers' Association, at its meeting tonight, at the New Willard, to take similar action to complete the definite and final amalgamation of the two associations and bring into actual being the Washington Chamber of Commerce.

**Purpose of Meeting.**

After the call to order by President James F. Oyster, and the reading of the minutes of the last meeting by Secretary William F. Gude, Mr. Oyster stated that the purpose of the meeting was the consideration of the recommendation of the board of directors to amalgamate with the Jobbers and Shippers' Association. President Oyster, in explaining the board's recommendation, reviewed the results obtained by both associations, showing that while much good had been accomplished, it was felt that greater good could have been and would be accomplished by a union of the two. The Business Men's Association in taking this action would sacrifice their identity, officers and money, but it was conceived by the board of directors that the greatest good for the entire community would be best subserved by one strong organization, and that that was the end to be sought.

The debate on the resolution was then opened, and was participated in by a large number of members. Only two opposed amalgamation, John I.

### RESOLVED:

That the permanent organization of the Washington Chamber of Commerce be now effected; that the membership be composed of the members of the Business Men's Association and the Jobbers and Shippers' Association in good standing and such other persons as may subsequently be elected, the members of the Business Men's Association and the Jobbers and Shippers' Association to be members without further payment of dues until January 1, 1908.

Flemming and Orren G. Staples. These gentlemen thought that the Business Men's Association as it stood could accomplish all the results to be expected from the Chamber of Commerce and out of loyalty to the old association they preferred not to make a change.

**Advantages to Washington.**

It was pointed out by others that, as expressed by Allen D. Albert, Jr., it was from a desire not to serve the interests of the association less, but to serve those of the whole District more, and a firm belief in the wisdom of the action for that purpose that amalgamation was desired. The death of the Business Men's Association, said Conrad Syme, would be to result in the resurrection of a greater and more useful organization. He pointed out that the new chamber would have behind it the support of all the financial institutions of the city, and expressed the firm belief that the birth of the Chamber of Commerce would be one of the most significant and im-

portant events in the history of Washington.

Mr. Albert dwelt on the important relation the proposed office building and home would bear to the success of the new body, and spoke of the many offers of assistance made for this project. He declared that the directors had never desired to assume any responsibility in the matter of details of organization, but simply to point out a simple plan for the accomplishment of the purpose which they all believed would meet with the approval of all the members.

**Prominent Visitors Interested.**

Robert A. Chester assured those present that he had had voluntary offers of contributions to the proposed Chamber of Commerce and said that not only here but elsewhere prominent men had expressed to him the deepest interest in the movement.

Robert N. Harper said that he had proposed the consolidation of the three leading business associations last fall, but had met with opposition in certain quarters at that time. He was glad to see the disposition to bring the two associations together, and believed that it would result in an association having a membership composed of all the progressive citizens of the District.

**Other Speakers.**

Others who participated in the debate were Captain John D. Canady, John B. Kinnear, M. L. Weller, F. P. May, F. K. Raymond, William Danenhower, C. Claggett, Percival Brown, and William F. Gude.

A resolution providing for the appointment of a committee of five to act with a similar committee from the Jobbers and Shippers' Association to formulate a plan of organization to be submitted to the members of the Washington Chamber of Commerce at a meeting to be held at the New Willard at 8 o'clock, was then adopted after a short discussion, and the meeting adjourned.

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One Golden Oak China Case.....\$35.00 \$26.00	Mah. Cheval Glass to match.....\$116.00 \$95.00	2-pc. Mah. Suite.....\$37.00 \$27.75
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	Circassian Walnut Chiffonier.....\$126.00 \$100.00	Solid Mah. Divan.....\$33.00 \$21.00
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	Mah. Chiffonier.....\$32.00 \$22.00	
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	Mah. Inlaid Bureau.....\$38.00 \$27.00	
	Mah. Inlaid Chiffonier.....\$77.00 \$59.00	
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One Golden Oak.....\$13.75 \$10.35
One Golden Oak.....\$16.00 \$12.00
Six Golden Oak.....\$17.00 \$12.75
Four Golden Oak.....\$22.00 \$16.50
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